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Docket No. 60,130-1226 (99MRA0205)

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12/3/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Foster et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/004,294

EXAMINER: Nguyen, Trinh T.

FILED: October 24, 2001

GROUP ART UNIT: 3726

FOR: Vehicle With Large Planar Composite Panels

Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

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AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract as originally filed with the following abstract. A version of the abstract with changes indicated is attached at Appendix A.

B
A vehicle trailer includes large side panels that are attached to a trailer superstructure. A method and apparatus for making the panels includes forming composite panels that are lightweight and economical to manufacture. In one embodiment, the superstructure has grooves for receiving the composite panels. The composite panels preferably fit together via a tongue and groove configuration. Alternatively, the superstructure has support beams that have threaded receiving holes. Each composite panel then includes threaded inserts aligned with the receiving holes and that attach to the receiving holes. In both embodiments, each composite panel